

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

As a customer of DIRECTV, I am writing to urge you to support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. I believe the merger will increase video and broadband choices for consumers like me.

The combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable operators by being able to offer me local TV channels via satellite in my market area, which I currently do not receive.

I currently have broadband access to the Internet, but the combination of EchoStar and HUGHES will result in increased competition in the broadband market by providing an affordable high-speed Internet service nationwide via satellite.

Additionally, the merger would allow for the combined company to provide more programming in HDTV format. More HDTV programming would increase interest in HDTV equipment and could provide the additional boost needed to meet the mandated 2006 shutdown of analog broadcasts.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Thomas Cravey
11339 Inez Dr.
Jacksonville, FL 32218